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Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 AGR-20

RSR-01 /186 W
---------- 025931
R 241714 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1468
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY ACCRA
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DAKAR
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 06146

E. O. 11652: XGDS
TAGS: ETRD, EEC, UK, US, XA
SUBJECT: UK POSITION ON PREFERENCES

REF: (A) EC BRUSSELS 2721; (B) EC BRUSSELS 2872
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1. AN FCO OFFICIAL HAS GIVEN US A SUMMARY OF THE STATEMENT THAT THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER, JOHN DAVIES, MADE DURING THE MAY 14 EC COUNCIL DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY' S UPCOMING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE AFRICAN ASSOCIATES AND THE COMMONWEALTH ASSOCIABLE COUNTRIES (REFTEL A).

2. WITH REGARD TO RECIPROCITY, DAVIES TOID THE COUNCIL THAT THE UK IS " CONCERNED" ABOUT THE FREE TRADE AREA PROPOSAL IN THE COMMISSION MEMORANDUM. TOO RIGID A POSITION ON THIS, DAVIES SAID, WOULD PUT AT RISK THE WILLINGNESS OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES TO ATTEND THE NEGOTIATIONS. ALTHOUGH HE AGREED THAT ANY ASSOCIATE OR ASSOCIABLE WHO SO WISHED SHOULD BE FREE TO RECIPROCATE, DAVIES OBJECTED TO THE INTIMATION THAT SOME FORM OF RECIPROCITY WAS REQUIRED. HE HOPED THE COMMISSION WOULD RECONSIDER ITS PROPOSALS SO THAT THE COMMUNITY COULD START THE NEGOTIATIONS WITH " A VERY OPEN- MINDED POSITION."

3. OUR FCO SOURCE AND AN OFFICIAL AT THE CABINET OFFICE SAID THAT ALL THE OTHER MEMBER STATES EXCEPT FRANCE TOOK POSITIONS ON RECIPROCITY THAT WERE CLOSE TO THE BRITISH POSITION, ALTHOUGH SOME OF THESE MEMBER STATES (FOR EXAMPLE, BELGIUM) EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE PROBLEM OF HOW TO MAKE " ONE- WAY" PREFERENCES CONFORM TO GATT.

4. OUR FCO SOURCE CONSIDERS THAT THE FRENCH INSISTENCE ON A LITERAL INTERPRETATION OF PROTOCOL 22 (REFTEL B) IS A NEGOTIATING PLOY, AND NOT A SERIOUS ATTEMPT TO LIMIT THE NUMBER OF ASSOCIATES AND ASSOCIABLES THAT COME TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. OUR SOURCE BELIEVES THAT FRANCE WILL TRY TO TRADE THIS POINT AT A LATER STAGE FOR SOME CONCESSION BY THE OTHER MEMBER STATES.

ANNENBERG

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TAGS: ETRD, UK, US, XA, EEC
To: ABIDJAN
ACCRA
ADDIS ABABA
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DAKAR

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